

S. African vote K.O.'s centre

JOHANNESBURG, March 3 (AFP). — Municipal elections here yesterday pointed to a growing polarisation of white politics in South Africa, observers said today. South Africa's official white opposition, the United Party, virtually disappeared from the political scene in the country's largest city after controlling the municipal reins for 31 years. It managed to hold on to only 11 seats out of 44, while the two extremes of white politics, the ruling National Party (N.P.) and the anti-apartheid Progressive Reform Party (P.R.P.) strengthened their positions. The N.P. gained five seats, to give it a total of 15. The P.R.P. which had hoped to win a majority, gained only three seats. But with 19 seats, it became the strongest party in the city council.

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جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية « الراي »

4 Japanese arrested after siege

TOKYO, March 3 (R). — Four ultra-rightwingers were arrested early today after holding two hostages for more than 10 hours at the offices of Japan's powerful Federation of Economic Organisations, police said. The four gave in without violence just after 3 a.m. Police had promised they would be treated as Samurai (warriors) and that cameramen would be kept away as they were taken into custody. The two hostages were unharmed. The four extremists, armed with a shotgun, a pistol and a sword, had burst into the federation building yesterday afternoon, originally seizing 12 hostages. They distributed a manifesto accusing business leaders of polluting and corrupting modern Japan.

Joint declaration issued

Euro-communist summit ends with call for democracy, individual liberty, legalisation of Spanish party

BRID, March 3 (Agencies). — Democratic socialists called for individual rights, co-operation with other democracies and East-West détente as the cornerstones of the Euro-communist, leaders of the French, Italian and Spanish Communist Parties affirmed today.

They also called for the legalisation of the Spanish party, which since Spain's civil war had been banned.

France's Communist Party secretary General Georges Marchais, Enrico Berlinguer of Italy and Spanish leader Santiago Carrillo stressed their commitment to parliamentary democracy and independence of the Kremlin in a declaration, and in separate statements at the end of an unprecedented two-day meeting in Madrid.

The declaration also said the leaders did not envisage setting up a world communist movement to rival Moscow.

On human rights, the document was a setback for the Spanish party chief, Senator Carrillo, who is anxious to establish his democratic credentials and show independence from Moscow in the hope that his Supreme Court will release his party before elections in June.

He had pressed for strong action against dissidents in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

Georges Marchais of France, Enrico Berlinguer of Italy and Spanish leader Santiago Carrillo issued his statement condemning revisionism and saying violation of human rights anywhere was an affront to human dignity everywhere.

Because of this we communists do not vacillate in condemning energetically violations of this common patrimony wherever it occurs, whatever social or political regime it is, even when those responsible belong to a party that claims socialist ideals," he said.

What I criticise the East is that the political system of these countries is not a system of socialist democracy," or Carrillo declared. Enrico Berlinguer praised the

Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries for being "the nations where class exploitation has been eliminated for the first time" and for their economic and social advances. "But at the same time, there exist limitations to liberty and authoritarian measures that we criticise because they contradict our concept of socialist practice," he said.

M. Marchais stated that "We are all entirely agreed on the fact that liberty is indivisible and that no man should be prosecuted for imprisoned for having made use of the freedom of expression, of opinion or of creation," but he told newsmen he was opposed to mentioning the dissidents in Eastern Europe in the joint statement.

This was because he felt the three parties had no right to issue a collective judgment on any other party.

There were nuances as well in the attitude of the three leaders to the term Euro-communism. Both Signor Berlinguer and Senator Carrillo used it freely to describe the positions of their parties. M. Marchais did not.

Referring obliquely to Eastern European attacks on Euro-communism, the French leader said he did not reject the word "but it is not our word and it now seems that there are others who are bothered by it." All three leaders stressed that they had no intention of setting up Madrid as the "capital of Euro-communism" and M. Marchais spoke out clearly against any concept of a new international form of communism based on Euro-communism.

Both M. Marchais and Signor Berlinguer said the Madrid talks had shown that the three parties faced a number of similar problems. Each of the parties had reached individually "a converging evaluation of the problems of democracy and socialism," Signor Berlinguer declared.

"It is this convergence that has been given the name Euro-communism," he said. Among the main points of the joint statement were: — Legalisation of the Spanish Communist Party and all other democratic parties was indispensable if truly free elections were to be held there.

— The economic, political, social and moral crisis facing all three countries called for "new solutions" for their societies. As a positive alternative and to beat back reactionary forces, the three parties so-

ught "to bring about the widest possible agreement with political and social forces ready to contribute towards a policy of progress and renewal. This calls for the presence of workers and their parties in the direction of political life."

— The three parties sought societies in which "all collective and individual freedoms" are guaranteed. These included freedom of speech, the press and association, the right to hold meetings and demonstrations, free movement of persons both at home and abroad, freedom for trades unions and the right to strike, inviolability of private life, respect for universal suffrage, the possibility of alternating tenure of power by democratic majorities and religious, cultural, philosophical and artistic freedom.

— The freedom of each party respectively to choose its own solutions to problems and to build socialist societies corresponding to conditions in each country.

— A reaffirmation of the commitment of the three parties to East-West détente, "total implementation" of the final Helsinki act and the need for a successful follow-up European summit meeting at Belgrade this summer. — A call for a peaceful, democratic and independent Europe without military bases or an arms race and to transform the Mediterranean into a sea of peace and cooperation.

Southern Lebanese move to defuse tension in frontier villages

BEIRUT, March 3 (R). — Moslem and Christian villagers met in South Lebanon today to try to end tension in the region along the frontier with Israel.

In Beirut, President Elias Sarkis presided over a meeting of the four-power Arab committee set up last November to supervise the ceasefire in Lebanon's civil war.

No details of the meeting were made public.

A statement issued after the meeting between the Maronite Christian villagers of Rmeish and the Moslem inhabitants of neighbouring villages said they were all trying to restore the situation to normal.

They had no differences on grounds of religion, they said. British Ambassador Sir Peter Wakefield today received a Lebanese government memorandum on this country's wish to take part in the Geneva peace conference.

It has already been handed to the U.N., Soviet and French envoys. Meanwhile, this morning's meeting of the four-man Arab committee lasted for nearly two hours, the official radio reported.

After the meeting, the Saudi and Egyptian representatives, Ambassadors Ali Sher and Ahmad Latfi Mitwalli, left Beirut for consultations with their res-

pective governments. (The other members of the committee represent Kuwait and Syria).

As well as chairing the quadripartite committee's session, President Sarkis met various personalities this morning to discuss the situation in south Lebanon, the radio said.

It quoted one of the visitors, Deputy Suleiman Al Ali, as reporting that the president felt "reassured" about developments in the south.

Meanwhile, in Cairo, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Boutros today started a series of intensive contacts with Arab League officials and Arab foreign ministers on the situation in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Boutros, in Cairo to attend the Afro-Arab foreign ministers meeting, which started today, conferred this morning with Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad.

He said he was planning further meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and other Arab foreign ministers.

Mr. Boutros excluded the possibility of the situation in southern Lebanon being discussed in the Afro-Arab summit due to start in Cairo next Monday.

He added the situation was likely to change if some of the delegates raised the issue. He did not elaborate.

Afro-Arab F.M.'s hear call for increased Arab aid to Africa

CAIRO, March 3 (AFP). — Africa made strong demands for more Arab aid and a re-examination of oil prices at the opening session here today of a conference of Arab and African foreign ministers.

The conference leads up to a summit next week of heads of state of 61 African and Arab countries, aimed at taking concrete decisions to make Afro-Arab solidarity a reality.

Speaking for Africa, the Foreign Minister of the small west African state of Togo, Edem Kodjo, set forth three demands, stating notably that oil prices should be fixed to favour the poorest non-oil-producing countries.

The first session of the ministerial conference lasted for a little more than an hour and was entirely devoted to procedural questions. Tomorrow the ministers will start work on a report of the Arab-African "committee of 24" adopted earlier this year in Lusaka, Zambia.

The committee called for the establishment of an executive organisation for Afro-Arab co-operation.

The ministers will also discuss a Tanzanian proposal for increased Arab aid to Africa.

Mr. Kodjo also told the Arab states that profitability should not be the only criterion for their aid to Africa, but added "The African countries must understand that not all Arab investments will be pumped into Africa."

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But he urged Arab countries

with excess funds to help to develop Africa's enormous unexploited resources.

Making his third demand, Mr. Kodjo asked for the "coordination" of the price of oil, which he said was the cause of economic dislocation in the least-developed countries.

Mr. Kodjo appeared to be replying to Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy who, in his welcoming speech, spoke essentially of the brotherhood of Arabs and Africans, referring to co-operation in terms of reciprocity rather than about an increased flow of Arab cash into Africa.

Mr. Fahmy also said in his speech that Arab and African peoples possessed human and material resources which could lead to integration in production and consumption for the benefit of more than 350 million people.

He called for intensive Arab-African cooperation covering all fields.

The Arabs, Mr. Fahmy said, appreciate the African support for Arab causes, particularly

the recovery of the territories occupied by Israel and the rights of the Palestinian people.

He said the African support of the Palestinian people's rights "emerge from your belief that their (the Palestinian's) struggle is an integral part of your struggle and they (the Palestinians) are fighting with you against racism, imperialism and terrorism."

He assured the Africans of the firm Arab support of African causes.

Tunisian foreign minister Habib Chatti, speaking in his capacity as chairman of the present session of the Arab League, called for joint action to complete the liberation of the Arab World and Africa.

He said the joint action should also take efforts to set up a new world economic order which would give developing countries a fairer deal.

The Tunisian minister emphasised the need for a common front against the "Pretoria-Salisbury-Tel Aviv" alliance.

A political declaration to be adopted by the coming summit is expected to express total support for the Palestinian cause, black majority rule in Rhodesia, the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and independence for Namibia (Southwest Africa) and the French territory of Afars and Issas (Djibouti).

An economic declaration by the summit is expected to define the two sides' cooperation in financial and trade by preferential trade agreements.

It will also lay down the bases for cooperation in mining, transport, communications and telecommunications.

Arab sources here said it was unlikely the Arabs would take on the whole cost of Africa's development needs, especially as Arabs and Africans have not agreed on the continent's medium-term capital requirements.

According to World Bank and other estimates, Africa would need between \$4,000 and \$5,000 million to maintain a growth rate of around two per cent of GNP, which would mean a tripling of external aid to Africa this year.

Informed sources said the African nations are seeking \$2 billion from the Arabs. But the oil producers, including Saudi Arabia, have only agreed so far to pay \$500 million.

But some oil producers maintain they cannot pay the amount sought by the Africans because of other commitments, including aid to fellow-Arab and Islamic countries.

Threat of further Rhodesian Front defections imperils Smith's scheme to reduce racial discrimination

SALISBURY, March 3 (R). — Prime Minister Ian Smith, faced by a revolt within his own Rhodesian Front Party, was tonight struggling for vital votes to save his government from defeat in parliament.

Political sources said Mr. Smith and his supporters were lobbying intensively among black and white parliamentarians to rescue his scheme to reduce racial discrimination in white-ruled Rhodesia.

The proposal is an integral part of Mr. Smith's plan to attract black nationalist leaders to talks on an internal settlement leading to majority rule.

But Mr. Smith appears to have a tough task. The South African Press Association (SAPA) reported today that three or four more members of the Rhodesian Front may join the 12 rebels whose refusal to back the premier's strategy yesterday ignited the government's worst political crisis since it broke away from Britain 12 years ago.

One of the rebels, backbencher Dennis Fawcett Phillips, was quoted as saying he and his associates might form their own political party in opposition to the Rhodesian Front.

The issue that has split the Rhodesian Front arose over Mr. Smith's decision to change the Land Tenure Act, which divided Rhodesia equally between 270,000 whites and six million blacks.

He planned to give the blacks a greater share of the land and thus encourage black leaders within Rhodesia to move towards a settlement excluding the militants based outside Rhodesia, who command the guerrilla forces fighting for majority rule.

The prime minister needs a two-thirds majority of the 66-seat parliament to carry the land tenure amendment bill into law. This at present appears impossible given the defection of 12 of the 50 Rhodesian Front members of parliament and the intention to abstain declared by 13 of the 16 black members.

Political sources said Mr. Smith was tonight trying to win back some of his own rebels and to persuade black abstainers to side with him.

If the voting line-up does not change, he could expect defeat over the bill and either ask for a straight vote of confidence on a simple majority to continue in power or call a general election, the sources said.

The land tenure amendment bill, which will cut exclusively white areas in Rhodesia from

45 million acres (18 million hectares) to 500,000 acres (200,000 hectares), is at present at its second reading stage.

The government needs only a simple majority to clear this hurdle tonight. But the third reading, tomorrow or early next week, will need the crucial two-thirds majority.

The Rhodesian Front rebels -- branded by the pro-government Rhodesia Herald today as "yesterday's men ... who walk in fear of tomorrow" -- argue that the land tenure amendments will undermine the security of the whites and lead to the nationalists making more demands.



BHUTTO'S ELECTION RALLY -- Pakistan's Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (wearing cap, top left) waves to the crowd during his massive motorised election rally in Karachi Wednesday. The rally covered a 25-mile route in fourteen hours. (AP wirephoto).

Bhutto's Karachi rally swings election in favour of ruling People's Party

ISLAMABAD, March 3 (R). — Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto appears to have swung the general election campaign decisively in favour of his ruling People's Party (PPP) after a triumphant procession through Karachi yesterday, political observers said today.

The observers predicted the PPP would next Monday's elections by a comfortable majority over the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), a nine-party opposition front.

Mr. Bhutto boldly challenged the opposition parties in their stronghold by leading a procession acclaimed by newspaper today as the biggest in the history of Karachi.

Press reports said more than a million people -- one-quarter of the population of Karachi --

took part in the procession, which was bigger than one led here 10 days ago by the principal opposition leader Asghar Khan, former chief of the Pakistan air force.

PPP officials said the mammoth procession had not only revitalised their campaign in Karachi, but given it a great boost throughout the country.

Mr. Bhutto, 49, led the procession for 15 hours along a 25-km route through the city, winding up in the early hours of this morning with a rousing speech.

Observers said Mr. Bhutto had brought the PPP campaign to a peak at a decisive stage just five days before polling, whereas the opposition seemed to have lost some of its momentum in the last week.

The opposition has made a much bigger impact than Mr. Bhutto expected, largely because it managed to form a united front and hold together much longer than he foresaw.

A week ago, some political pundits tipped the alliance to oust Mr. Bhutto. PNA leaders still say they will win, but do not sound so confident now.

Latest assessments by independent political analysts give the opposition between 60 and 80 of the 180 seats in the National Assembly. The PPP has already won 20 seats uncontested.

A comfortable PPP victory in the National Assembly elections would help the ruling party retain control of the four provincial assemblies in separate elections on March 10.

Indian Congress Party defections boost chances of opposition

NEW DELHI, March 3 (R). — Deputy Agriculture Minister Prabhudas Patel today defected from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party, giving a fresh boost to India's combined opposition only two weeks from a general election.

Mr. Patel resigned his post to join the Congress for Democracy Party formed by his ex-boss at the Agriculture Ministry, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, whose own defection last month stunned the ruling party.

He said he was not happy with the way the Congress Party organisation functioned, but he did not elaborate.

Mr. Patel, who had held his deputy ministership for two years, will not be a candidate in this month's election, but he said he would campaign for the combined opposition in his home state of Gujarat.

Today's action by Mr. Patel followed the resignation from the Congress Party yesterday of Mrs. Sumitra Kulkarni, a member of the Rajya Sabha (upper house) and grand-daughter of the father of the Indian nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

They form part of a growing number of reported defections from Congress as the election approaches. Polling takes place from March 18-20.

Congress won 352 of the 524 Lok Sabha (lower house) seats in the last election in 1971, but observers say this election will

be a much closer race. Mr. V. B. Rao, the General Secretary of the Congress Party's National Committee, countered such speculation today, saying that defections from Congress had not touched even the fringe of the party. He told reporters the party was solid, unaffected and stable.

Mrs. Kulkarni said she would also campaign in Gujarat, the stronghold of opposition leader Morarji Deasai and a state where Congress faces one of its toughest battles.

Mrs. Gandhi, meanwhile, went to the western state of Maharashtra today for a series of campaign speeches.

TT's Indian news agency Samachar quoted her in one of the addresses as warning that there was a continued threat of external aggression against India.

She was quoted as saying that foreign reports spoke of uneasiness in India's neighbours, though outwardly there was peace on the border.

Samachar did not report to which countries Mrs. Gandhi was referring, but she was quoted as saying "Only a strong and stable government could face external threats, not the hedge-podge unity of the (opposition) parties with different ideologies."

Four opposition parties have grouped together for the general election as the Janata (People's) Party.

Davar slams Sharon abin consults advisors on Washington visit

L AVIV, March 3 (R). — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin today said he was preparing to talk with President Carter in Washington next week.

Discussions were with Foreign Minister Yigal Alon, Defence Minister Shimon Peres, army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur.

A government official said the main aim of Mr. Rabin's visit was to make sure there was no change in the U.S. position on the Palestinian question and to prevent "an imposition" on the Middle East.

The Israeli prime minister said he would continue the dialogue with Mr. Carter's administration begun last month when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance toured the Middle East, to find out views on reconvening the Geneva peace conference.

During his talks with President Carter, Mr. Rabin is also expected to discuss the American refusal to allow Israel to use its Kfir fighters to Equatorial Guinea, which gives it a right of self-defence.

The Israeli premier also was to bring up the new administration's withdrawal of an agreement to sell Israel conventional bombs.

The centre-right Likud opposition yesterday called on Mr. Rabin to postpone his visit, which it branded an election stunt

before next May's polls in Israel.

In a separate development, the Tel Aviv daily Davar said the General Federation of Labour (Histadrut) lashed out at former Gen. Ariel (Ariel) Sharon, leader of the newly formed rightwing Shlomzion party, and a former prominent Likud personality, for statements he made on the eve of his departure from London.

The paper said Gen. Sharon, who was in London to drum up funds for his new party, had severely set back Israel's image through the statement that the Rabin government had transformed Israel into a hostage in the hands of the American administration.

Davar added that Gen. Sharon, who led the Israeli crossing of the Suez Canal during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, had provided the enemies of Israel with valuable ammunition when he admitted before a British audience that up to 1972, Israel had made no serious effort to conclude peace with the Arabs.

Meanwhile, the independent weekly Haolam Hazeh mentioned in its latest issue that during his London visit Gen. Sharon, had described King Hussein as the biggest impediment to what the general outlined as his plans for peace in the Middle East.

Gen. Sharon told an audience in London two days ago that the Palestinians should forget about the West Bank and set up their own state in the East Bank.

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Common cancers

The meetings of Arab and African foreign ministers now taking place in Cairo come at a time when both the Arab and African nations are in the midst of major political and socio-economic changes. Arabs and Africans are both concerned about bringing about political changes in situations that seem to them to be unnatural -- Israel and the white minority regimes of Southern Africa. While concern about both is high, so is the momentum by which the forces of reason in this world are trying to bring about changes that will allow Palestinians, black South Africans, Namibians and Zimbabweans to exercise that fundamental right that is universally recognised to be inalienable -- the right to control one's own life in one's own home.

The foreign ministers meeting in Cairo should keep in mind that their common enemies, the Israelis and the white racists of Southern Africa, are not operating in their own individual vacuums. It should be a matter of more than routine concern that Israel is supplying South Africa with gunboats and missiles, and that the oil exploration rig the Israelis are using to drill in occupied Arab waters was reconitioned in South Africa. The fact that the governments in Pretoria and Tel Aviv are both well into manufacturing their own atomic bombs is not coincidental. Neither is the fact that they exchange precisely those tools by which each one can maintain its alien settler-colonialist existence in the seas of African and Arab humanity.

In both Southern Africa and Palestine, peace is maintained by a monstrous balance of power that regularly slips into open warfare or guerrilla killings. In both cases, the spectre of warfare and more destruction on a tremendous scale is something that has to be lived with, day in and day out.

The foreign ministers in Cairo this week should keep in mind that there can be no real or meaningful Afro-Arab cooperation as long as unnatural situations persist in Palestine and Southern Africa. The agreements that can be signed in Cairo will mean nothing if warfare and mass destruction remain likely possibilities in Palestine and Southern Africa. The Arabs and the Africans can do very little about their joint potential until they jointly tackle their common enemies and the parallel cancers that threaten to destroy them from within. If we Arabs and Africans sign grandiose cooperation agreements while Israel and the white minority regimes of Southern Africa exchange weapons and tools of economic exploitation, we'll have nobody to blame but ourselves when our children ask us why we sought to live in a fool's paradise.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two of the Jordanian dailies proposed in their Thursday editorials subjects for discussion at the Afro-Arab summit meeting due to convene in Cairo on Monday, while a third daily commented on the new trend in the U.S. policy towards Israel, outlined by the American refusal to set up a joint U.S. Israeli industry for the production of F-16 jet fighters.

AL RA'I says that the Afro-Arab summit meeting, which comes second in importance to that of the non-aligned countries, should only discuss vital issues that help African and Arab countries to emerge from their state of under-development. The conference should not limit its work by just condemning Zionist aggression and the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia, the paper adds. But it should try to find a basis for cooperation between rich and poor nations. The summit which includes, at the same time, the largest producers of raw materials and the largest importers of consumer products should also define its position on the spiralling prices of consumer products. The conference should finally draw up plans to transform the African and Arab countries from their present state of under development to that of industrialised ones, the paper concludes.

AL SHA'B under the heading "A message to the Arab Foreign Ministers" calls on the Arab Foreign Ministers and on their African counterparts to discuss the de facto Israeli occupation of parts of South Lebanon and act to prevent Israel from imposing once again its

will and expansionist policy upon the Arabs.

The news which has filtered through from the south of Lebanon speaks of thousands of refugees who have left Beirut, while Israel continues to bombard the region to evict more and claim afterwards that it has occupied only areas which were uninhabited.

This policy, the paper adds, has two objectives: the first is to increase the area of its occupation in the south and the second, to burden the Lebanese government, which has just emerged from war, with a refugee problem difficult to handle. Lebanon at present, the paper concludes, is in need of all the Arab support it can get to enable it to face the expansionist policy being implemented by Israel "if we wish to avoid a new occupation of another part of our Arab homeland."

AL DUSTOUR commenting on the U.S. refusal to set up a joint industry with Israel to produce F-16 fighter jets says that this refusal along with previous signs in the same direction seem to indicate a fundamental change in U.S. policy towards the region. However, the paper adds, though it is too premature to explain these signs as such, they still remain positive moves by the U.S. which should not be disregarded or ignored. No one can condemn the adoption by the U.S. of a positive position in the Middle East conflict, but we should not be carried away with wishful thinking and be guided by a mirage, to find at the end that nothing of the sort exists.

In any case, the paper concludes, if the U.S. continues to adopt such positions its chances of playing a more positive role in the region to bring about a peace settlement could increase.



Before we run out of oil we may run out of earth.

Saharan refugees face extreme hardships and malnutrition

TINDOUF, Southern Algeria, March 3 (AFP). — A few miles from the rust coloured walls of Tindouf, a guarded checkpoint in mid-desert marks the boundary of the Sahara Nationalist Zone housing refugees and guerrillas from neighbouring former Spanish Sahara.

In the days before decolonisation of the Spanish territory soured relations between the Maghreb countries. The Tindouf region was a regular rendezvous for nomads who would flock here for the annual camel market.

Today the region is a military zone banned to all but authorised persons. Soviet-built MIG fighters are based permanently at Tindouf and Algerian army units have been moved to the region. In addition a night-time curfew prohibits all movement on foot after 10 pm.

The Algerian government has ceded temporarily a portion of its territory to the Saharan pro-independence Polisario Front -- a movement first formed to fight the Spanish colonisers and which is now engaged in a combat against the annexation of the Sahara by Morocco and Mauritania.

Polisario officials put the number of refugees who crossed the border into Algeria at 110,000. They are housed in 28 camps scattered haphazardly in the nationalist zone and linked by dirt roads. The camps have been given names of localities in the Western Sahara: El Aai-un, Smara, Dkhala, Djidjira ... etc.

Each camp is run by an organisation comprising a commander, a welcome committee, and specialised committees dealing with information, education, political formation, women, health-hygiene and supplies. Law and order are maintained by youth militants.

The camps are supplied with food partly with aid from the red cross, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and various private groups in France, Switzerland, Spain and Sweden notably.

But the bulk -- two thirds according to unofficial Algerian sources -- is provided by Algeria.

Malnutrition is a major problem in the camps where supplies of meat and milk are both inadequate and irregular. There is often no water if tankers are unable to make their

rounds. The basic diet is pasta, with a few scraps of camel or goat meat when these are available.

Under these conditions aggravated by the extreme difference in temperature between day and night, asthma, tuberculosis, rickets, trachoma, worms and scurvy have taken a heavy toll among the refugees.

In some camps, inmates have built underground schools and dispensaries in order to free ground-space under the tents for better accommodation.

Despite geographical and climatic difficulties and the lack of infrastructure, social activities have sprung up in the camps. Young people form folk groups to sing "revolutionary" adaptations of the traditional nomad songs.

After the long afternoon siesta, the camp springs into life at sundown, when security risks are less and temperatures cooler. Convoys operate mainly after dark and political meetings are regularly held in the early hours.

Meanwhile, outside on the dunes Polisario sentries watch in the knowledge that only 100 kms. away the Moroccan flag is flying over Mahbes.

NEWS FOCUS

French elections put pressure on right and raise new campaign issues

Giscardian-Gaullist conflict

PARIS, March 3 (AFP). — The Elysee presidential palace today denied rumour that a government reshuffle is due shortly.

According to the rumours, prevalent for the past two days in political circles here, the reshuffle would come after the municipal elections and before parliament reconvenes, in other words, between March 20 and April 2.

Personalities tipped for office in the new government include prominent figures in the party for the Republic, the former Gaullists, Jacques Chaban-Delmas and Alain Peyrefitte, both somewhat opposed to the party's leader, Jacques Chirac.

Another is publisher Former Minister Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber. President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has just delegated him to make a study of necessary social reforms, seen by some observers as a prior step to a ministerial portfolio. Obviously, on the threshold of municipal elections, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing cannot allow the idea to take hold that a government change is due, and in the near future.

Even when such a reshuffle is necessary, it will not be announced in advance.

Nevertheless, the Elysee's denial has not convinced everybody. It is pointed out that if Michel d'Ornano is elected mayor of Paris, he must as promised give up his portfolio as industry minister.

This would involve at least a limited reshuffle. In fact, many politicians seem to regard changes in the government as inevitable after the elections, particularly as many members of the government are candidates in the elections and some risk losing to the left-wing opposition.

What in any case is of more interest to many commentators is whether the left will be able to win in Paris.

Mr. Chirac has long predicted such a possibility and made it the motive for his own candidature for the mayor's office. This possibility is now admitted by Mr. d'Ornano's entourage.

It means that the two groups of the governing majority -- the Independent Republicans (Giscardians) and the Gaullists -- will have to sink their differences, even if they do not come to an actual understanding.

The "pluralism" advocated by Mr. Giscard d'Estaing himself imposes on the majority parties the necessity for a basic minimum of discipline in the face of the Socialist-Communist Alliance.

This is the view of the Gaullist ministers who went today to complain to Minister of State Oliver Guichard about the attitude adopted toward Mr. Chirac by their Giscardian and Centrist colleagues.

At the meeting, the Gaullists supported the remarks made

yesterday on the radio by Minister of State for Parliamentary Relations Robert Boulin, who complained of what he called the series of attacks on Mr. Chirac and the Gaullist movement in general. They instructed Mr. Guichard (himself a Gaullist) to tell Prime Minister Raymond Barre that the limit had been reached.

Mr. Guichard subsequently met Mr. Barre and handed him a letter. The reply is expected tomorrow.

Recent opinion polls show that the proportion could rise to 12 per cent in a city like Paris and could be a deciding factor in some ballots.

Fifty-one per cent of the electorate, however, are strongly hostile to the ecologists, who lists they regard as marginal.

The battle is being waged by ecologists of all kinds: "Friends of the Earth" led by Eric Lalonde, the Association for the Protection of Animals, the Anti-Blood Sport Group, name only some.

Their ideal human, social, pastoral. They want to clean up the Seine to make it suitable for swimming, create pedestrian streets free of cars, halt the construction of high-rise buildings and protect trees and plants.

In the Capital, Jean Chirac, Chairman of the Paris Transport Users' Federation, wants to humanise the city and the flow of millions of urban dwellers who enter the city every day.

In December an ecologist received seven per cent of the vote in the city's last election.

Political parties have an ecological hue to their programmes, but it appears to be a little late.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, whose predecessor Georges Pompidou set up an environment ministry, had decided to hold an annual "day of the tree" on the first of spring. Although this it will be postponed until April 16.

The determination of the ecologists not to take political sides and the growth of movement among young people and those of mature years have been the "spoilsport" these municipal elections.

But this apolitical stand had its effect on the mix classes, resulting in for example the creation of an "Initiative and Responsibility Group". The Group, which started central France, stemmed from meetings between farmers, representatives of small and medium-sized firms, the retail traders, craftsmen and executives.

They want to draw up a plan for society unimpaired by technocrats of any political persuasion.

"There is no question we will get caught up in politics," said Michel Debat, Chairman of the National Farmers' Federation.

A brake has thus been put on the political polarisation of the main right-wing left parties of the municipal elections, which must choose administrators for France's 36 communes.

There has been a constant increase in the ecological lobby, a factor which has influenced all political groups.

The Ecology Platform

Lists of candidates fighting the March municipal elections in France on an ecological platform are causing apprehension among traditional political parties.

The ecologists' so-called "green lists" have been appearing throughout the country, to protest against nuclear power stations and the dumping of their waste, against pollution and the invasion of concrete and steel buildings caused by modern town planning, as well as in support of green spaces, the preservation of the heritage of old Paris and the protection of wildlife and the countryside.

In the capital there are about 10 ecological lists, and others have been presented in Alsace in the East, at Grenoble in the Alps, at Amiens, Lille and Dunkirk in the north, and in a few places in the south-west.

Although many of them are left-wing, they claim to be "apolitical" and the question of how their votes will be redistributed at the second ballot is a problem.

There has been a constant increase in the ecological lobby, a factor which has influenced all political groups.

GMT 03:00 The Breakfast Show : 03:00, 04:00, 05:00, and 18:30 to 06:00 GMT : News, Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT. An informal presentation of popular music 20:00 and feature reports and 20:15 interviews, answers to 21:00 listeners' questions, Science Digest.

17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.

17:30 Forum

18:00 Special English, News, 21:30

Feature : The Livin Earth, News Summary Music USA (Standard News Roundup, Report Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary, VOA Magazine, Americas, Science, Culture Letters)

Special English, News and feature reports and 20:15 interviews, answers to 21:00 listeners' questions, Science Digest.

17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.

17:30 Forum

18:00 Special English, News, 21:30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 :

10:00 Quran

10:15 Cartoons

10:30 Arabic programme

11:00 Three stooges

11:30 Religious programme

12:30 Cultural programme

13:00 Varieties

14:30 Soccer match

16:00 The Waltons

16:50 Arabic series

17:30 Cultural programme

18:00 Arabic series

18:30 Big Valley

20:00 News in Arabic

Channel 3 :

19:30 Religious programme

20:30 Arabic series

21:20 Reportage

Channel 6 :

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Varieties

20:30 Cilla's comedy

21:10 The angels

22:00 News in English

22:15 Kojak

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(On 856 KHZ)

7:00 Morning melodies

7:30 News

7:40 News report

8:00 Sign off

12:00 Pop session

13:00 News summary

13:05 Pop session

14:00 News

14:10 Radio magazine

14:50 Arabs in history

15:00 Concert hour

16:00 Old favourites

16:30 Easy listening

17:00 Good vibrations (repeat)

17:30 Pop session

18:00 News summary

18:05 Pop session

18:15 Catch the words (repeat)

18:30 My kind of music (repeat)

19:00 News

19:10 News reports

19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors :

Amman :

Youssef Hourani (25478)

Ibrahim Nasr (23552)

Irbid :

Mohammad Sardaneh

Zarqa :

Kamel Hamati

Pharmacies :

Amman :

No details were available on pharmacies in Amman and

Irbid. The Jordan Times apologises for this omission.

Zarqa :

Matalqa

Shab

Taxis :

Al Hussein Medical City

(4281)

University (61002)

Khayam (41541)

Nahda (63003)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals :

7:55 Cairo (EA)

10:30 Beirut

11:15 Aleppo, Damascus (SAA)

15:00 Bucharest (Tarom)

16:00 Kuwait (KAC)

16:20 Agaba

16:20 Jeddah, Medina, Tref (SDI)

17:00 Cairo

17:05 Jeddah, Tref, Medina (SDI)

17:15 Paris, Rome

18:00 Madrid, Athens

19:40 Beirut (MEA)

21:25 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)

Departures :

8:00 Beirut

8:45 Beirut (MEA)

8:45 Cairo (EA)

10:10 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)

10:30 Cairo

12:00 Damascus (SAA)

14:30 Agaba

16:45 Kuwait (KAC)

18:10 Tref, Medina, Jeddah (SDI)

19:30 Dubai, Karachi

20:00 Kuwait

20:50 Tehran

22:55 Doha, Muscat

01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)

BBC RADIO

GMT

05:00 World News; 24 hours

05:30 Sarah Ward

05:45 The World Today

06:00 News; Press Review

06:30 My Kind of Music

07:00 News; 24 hours

07:30 Sarah Ward

07:45 Merchant Navy Programme

08:00 News; Reflections

08:15 Music for Wind Instruments

08:30 Jazz Club

09:00 News; Press Review

09:15 The World Today

09:30 Financial News

09:45 Jane Eyre

10:15 Merchant Navy

10:30 Folk and Country

11:00 News

11:15 Face of England

11:30 Discovery

1

Water starts to flow into King Talal Dam

Helped along by auspicious downpour

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN (JT). — Five years after construction work started on the King Talal Dam, the Zarqa River diversion was closed Thursday to initiate the first stages of the filling of the reservoir behind the dam.

When it is completely filled, the King Talal Dam will ultimately have a usable capacity of 8 million cubic metres of water, which will be used initially for irrigation schemes in the Jordan Valley, and later to supply fresh water to the Amman region.

Thursday's ceremony at noon, attended by the several hundred engineers and workers who have built the dam, as well

as officials and staff of the Jordan River and Tributaries Regional Corporation, was followed by an auspicious downpour of rain that will help fill the reservoir enough to carry out sensitive testing on the structure.

The testing will go on for the next several months, as the entire structure is not expected to be completed fully until September, and the full capacity of the reservoir will not be attained until well into the winter of 1977-78.

The water that has started to be stored this week will be used immediately in Jordan Valley irrigation projects, particularly via the East Ghor Canal and

the Zarqa Triangle irrigation project.

The King Talal Dam will eventually permit the irrigation of 60,000 dunums of new prime agricultural land in the Jordan Valley, and will also power two electricity generators of 2,500 KW each.

When full, the reservoir will form an S-shaped lake 6.5 kms. long with an average width of 400 metres. This will allow the development of new recreational and fisheries facilities in the Zarqa River valley, 40 kms northwest of Amman, along the main road north to Jarash.

The cost of the dam has totalled JD 11.7 million. The dam structure is of the earth and rock-fill type, with a central core of compressed clay.

It will be 92 metres above the river bed at its highest point, and 330 metres wide.

PRINCESS BASMA VISITS IRBID CHARITIES

AMMAN (JNA). — Her Highness Princess Basma Thursday visited a number of charities in the Irbid Governorate. She looked over the societies' activities and programmes.

Princess Basma, who was accompanied by Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni, discussed social life in the governorate with charity officials. Kindergartens, in particular, are to be promoted.

The princess donated JD 1,000 to the Irbid Charity Society. The tour took her to societies in Al Naimeh, Al Sa'eeh, Huwwara, Kuf Kall, Sama Al Roussan and Kuf Som. She visited Irbid Charity Society and King Hussein Charity Institute, both in Irbid.



Princess Basma listens to an official from a charity organization during her visit to Irbid Thursday. Labour Minister Issam Ajlouni sits in the centre. (JNA photo).

Jordan's delegate at tourism meet returns

AMMAN (JT). — Jordan's representative to the World Tourism Organisation's WTO Executive Council meeting held in Madrid last week returned to Amman Wednesday night.

Laurice Hlass, advisor to the minister of Tourism and Antiquities, stated that Jordan is serving for the first time as a member of the Executive Council, and will do so for the rest of 1977. A total of 18 other states make up this body.

Among matters discussed at the council's fourth session were the draft general programme of work for 1978-79 and the budget for the same period as prepared by WTO's secretary general.

A World Conference on Tourism to be held in 1980 was also an important topic discussed.

Jordan brought up the question of WTO cooperation with the Arab Tourism Union (ATU). The principle of cooperation

was accepted. The WTO secretary general will therefore examine with his ATU counterpart the most appropriate means of strengthening cooperation between the secretariats of the two bodies.

Jordan was also entrusted with communicating to WTO's secretary general at the earliest possible date the name of the member-state in the Middle East that will represent that region in the Committee on Budget and Finance -- an important organ of the WTO.

The fifth session of the Executive Council will be held in Madrid following the meeting of the WTO General Assembly, which will take place in Madrid on May 23.

NABLUS SAMARITAN DELEGATION NOT BARRED FROM KING HUSSEIN, OFFICIAL SAYS

AMMAN (JNA). — An official source at the Ministry of Interior has denied foreign press reports that a delegation from the Samaritan community in Nablus was prevented from coming to Amman to offer condolences to His Majesty King Hussein on the death of the late Queen Alia.

The source said that the Samaritans were not prevented by any Jordanian official authority, but rather the delegation's request came when King Hussein was absent from the country.

Meeting considers supply situation

AMMAN (JNA). — The Ministry of Supply will do its best to provide the local market with an abundance of different kinds of food and work to ensure the existence of national food reserves and price stability.

This was discussed in a meeting at the Ministry of Supply presided over by premier Mudar Badran Thursday. The meeting also discussed the need for building grain silos,

speeding up the establishment of the automatic bakery in Amman and encouraging the private sector to import ovens to ensure sufficient bread.

Discussions also centred on the necessity of providing regular supplies of meat at a stable price through establishing cold-storage units of 3,000 tonnes capacity. The meeting also touched upon the subject of importing large quantities of rice to cover local market requirements.

W. German prefab firm wins school contract

AMMAN (JNA). — A contract was signed Thursday between Jordan and a West German firm specialised in prefabricated buildings for the construction of schools throughout the country.

According to the contract, which was signed at the Ministry of Public Works, 40 two-storey buildings will be erected. Each building will consist of 32 classes and offices, in addition to gymnasiums for Ministry of Education schools, where such facilities do not now exist.

It further provides for the construction of annexes in the girls teacher training institute at Ajloun, and Rabbah and Shobak agricultural schools, as well as building frontier posts at Al Amari, Muawara, Prince Mohammad Bridge on the River Jordan and a housing unit for doctors and nurses at Princess Rahma Hospital in Aqaba.

Total cost of this work is estimated at 47.5 million marks. It will be completed within the next 10 months.

The contract was signed for Jordan by Minister of Public Works Said Bino and for the company by its two representatives.

SNOW, RAIN WILL

CONTINUE TO HIT

JORDAN FOR 24 HRS.

AMMAN (JT). — Jordan has been hit for the third successive day by a low pressure belt coming from northern Turkey. It will continue to affect Jordan for the coming 24 hours.

More snow is expected in the high lands and temperatures are not expected to rise above six degrees C.

In spite of this cold front rain has not fallen in the south. There has, however, been heavy rain for three consecutive days in the north.

Government to pay for expropriated lands soon

AMMAN (JNA). — The government will start paying compensation next week to those whose lands have been expropriated for public buildings, Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammad Dabbas announced Thursday.

Dr. Dabbas said the aim of this speedy compensation is to help those affected to buy new plots of land to replace the expropriated ones.

"As for the lands expropriated for Yarmouk University, the government will pay compensation to those who did not object to the assessed prices. Those who submitted their objections will receive compensation decided by committees formed for this purpose according to the expropriation laws and regulations, Dr. Dabbas said.

South Korean, Jordanian economic links discussed

AMMAN (JNA). — The Minister of Finance, Dr. Mohammad Dabbas, discussed the strengthening of Jordanian-South Korean economic and financial relations, when he received the South Korean ambassador in Amman and the governor of the Korean central bank.

The governor arrived in Amman Thursday morning on a two-day visit to Jordan to discuss with Jordanian officials ways of promoting economic and banking relations between the two countries. He will also discuss facilities given to South Korean firms operating in Jordan.

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NATIONAL NOTES

AMMAN. — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Thursday sent a cable of good wishes to King Hassan II of Morocco on the occasion of the anniversary of his accession to the throne.

AMMAN. — The Minister of Transport, Mr. Ali S'heimat, Thursday received a Syrian transport delegation and discussed with its members the possibilities of unifying overland transport regulations in the two countries.

AMMAN. — The Director General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, Dr. Mohammad Muhib Zaki, arrives here Friday on a four-day visit for talks with agricultural officials.

AMMAN. — Jordan's Ambassador to Greece, Mr. Fawwaz Abu Ghannam, Thursday left for Athens, having participated in the Greek-Jordan talks which took place during the visit of Greek Foreign Minister Dimitri Bistinos.

AMMAN. — The Foreign Ministry's Acting Secretary General Thursday received the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Jordan.

AMMAN. — The Director of Social Affairs at the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Khaled Al Radaydeh, returned here Wednesday evening from Cairo having attended the 21st session of the Arab League Permanent Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, which convened in Cairo from Feb. 26-28.

AMMAN. — The Minister of Finance, Mr. Mohammad Dabbas, Thursday received the director of the British Orion Bank, here on a visit, and discussed with him development projects to be implemented with the financial help of the bank.

AMMAN. — Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas toured Aqaba port, its free zone and customs department in the past two days. He met with customs officials and urged them to coordinate with the Port Authority to speed the clearing of all imports.

Industrial coordination talks to resume

AMMAN (JNA). — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee for Industrial Coordination will meet here Sunday to resume its study of coordination between existing and proposed industries whose capital exceeds JD2 million in the two countries. The aim is to reach full coordination between both countries to put an end to industrial duplication.

Veterinary expert lectures on tuberculosis

AMMAN (JT). — The Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Giessen in West Germany, Prof. Dr. Schliesser, Thursday evening gave a lecture at the Goethe Institute on tuberculosis in animals and public health. After the lecture, experts participated in a discussion followed by a reception.

Dr. Schliesser is in Amman to visit the Jordan-German veterinary project in the Animal Production and Health Department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian filis for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:		
U.K. sterling	571.0	571.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	139.2	139.6
French franc	66.9	67.2
Swiss franc	130.5	130.9
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.6	37.8
Saudi riyal	94.2	94.6
Lebanese pound	110.1	111.1
Syrian pound	82.1	82.6
Iraqi dinar	945.0	950.0
Syrian pound	82.1	82.6
Iraqi dinar	945.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,152.0	1,160.0
Egyptian pound	480.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	300.0	330.0
UAE dirham	85.2	85.6

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British clothing hunters prefer natural fibre materials



Evening coat in soft cream wool and patterned with a gold raised design.

LONDON (LPS) — At a time of general world recession in the textile and fashion industries natural fibres and fabrics and clothing are, paradoxically, enjoying an increasingly buoyant demand. This is particularly the case in Britain where cloth producers and fashion houses have long been renowned for their skills with natural fibres, especially in the manufacture of quality wool textiles and knitwear.

In Britain's export markets the favourable exchange rate for the pound sterling is obviously helping to create this increased demand but sales are also growing in home markets. Cotton and wool are notching up impressive gains but the more exclusive and luxurious natural fibres such as silk, cashmere, mohair and linen are also experiencing new popularity.

"The Real Thing"

Demand for them is spread across the fashion industry -- underwear, knitwear, dresses, sportswear, casuals or outerwear. Consumer demand has been growing gradually but steadily during the past year and it seems fair to assume that it will increase more rapidly during 1977 and 1978 as the natural fibre fashion trend reaches its peak.

Why this great demand for natural fibres in fashion? With prices spiralling and current economic difficulties affecting most consumers in Britain would it not be more natural for women to buy clothing that is cheaper?

Some of the answers to these questions lie in the fact that there is currently a vogue for all things real and natural. Whether it is a case of ethnic and peasant fashions, natural cane, bamboo or wood furniture, wholemeal bread and organically grown wholefoods, the natural things of life are today much more readily sought and appreciated.

Special Properties

In fashion in general young designers are strongly ecology conscious and appreciative of the pleasant handle and appearance of natural textures. Indigo cotton denim the big trend fabric of the young fashion market over the past few years is a perfect example of this; the young chose it because it looked and felt good and the

more crushed and faded it became the better they liked it.

In the higher priced sections of the textile and fashion industry manufacturers believe that the demand for natural fibres is growing out of a renewed appreciation of quality on the part of the consumer. "Women want quality clothes again," says one top manufacturer of coats and suits. "They are tired of quantity -- cheap, instant fashions which either don't wear well or date within a matter of months."

They are prepared to pay higher prices now for clothes that they know will last, perhaps for several years."

Good Investment

Aquascutum, producer of quality coats, suits and rainwear, sums up the trend in one word -- investment. "Natural fibre fabric garments are a good investment today," says an Aquascutum spokesman. "The consumer knows prices are rising all the time and that she makes a sound investment in quality when she buys a pure wool or cashmere coat or suit."

Like many other manufacturers of quality clothing, Aquascutum is receiving many orders from customers abroad and has also seen its sales rise significantly in the home market during the past few months.

The growth in demand for natural fibre fashions is also helped by the fact that fashion is swinging back to a more classic theme. Changes in length, shape and colour are slowing down; the look evolves from season to season rather than changes rapidly. So there is far more to be gained from a stylish, classic garment in a good quality fabric.

In addition to considerations of quality and investment there is undoubtedly a desire for a more luxurious and exclusive look and feel in fashion. Sales of cashmere knitwear are rising steadily and silk is also being increasingly bought in Britain and on the European mainland.

The Appeal of Silk

For example, Janet Reger, who designs and sells beautiful silk underwear and nightwear, lavishly trimmed and decorated with lace, finds that although her prices are high -- silk pyjamas cost as much as £150 a pair -- this does not deter the woman bent on seeking a little



This day dress is made of pure cotton; cream in color, with black stripes.

luxury in her life. She finds her customers like to feel pampered and love the sensuous feel of silk next to their skin. They buy silk in spite of the extra care needed in laundering.

The need for special care can, of course, present problems with all natural fibres. Although fibre marketing organisations

such as the international Wool Secretariat promote machine washable garments -- superwash Wool for example -- most pure wool knitwear requires careful hand washing and pressing. Even the easier care cotton fabrics need a little extra attention, in spite of minimum iron and non-crease finishes.

Right throughout the textile and clothing manufacturing industries the story is the same: everybody is taking a new look at natural fibres. Liberty London Prints, which produce pure wool cloth as a superb, lightweight cotton lawn is selling more and in both home and export markets while William Hall's wool/cotton blend, V cloth is selling exceptionally well for the autumn 1977 season.

Quality Knits

In the knitwear industry natural fibre garments -- Shetland wool, cashmere and ton -- sell and sell at home and abroad. In fact some of the major Scottish producers, as Pringle of Scotland, find it difficult to keep with the ever growing demand for their quality knits, especially the higher priced cash styles.

At retail level this can present severe supply problems. Retail groups such as Buxtons and The Scotch House in London, which cater for the tourist trade, are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain sufficient stocks of quality knitwear and accessories, particularly cashmere scarves. Such companies as J. & J. which manufacture and through their own retail outlets are also feeding their customers with more natural fibre fashions. Pure cotton dresses and sweaters, cashmere knits and are all featured in Jaeger's 1977 ranges for men and women.

Increasing Their Range

In the volume retail market big groups like Marks & Spencer are also increasing their range of natural fibre fashions. During the recent months Marks and Spencer have been selling a selection of wool coats for women and also been successful with cashmere knitwear. Its London branches are now turning a wider selection of ton underwear and night

In fact cotton is all set to be the hit fashion fibre of the coming spring and summer. Cotton fashion fabrics last year and will be even more this year, according to London office of the International Institute for Cotton. The institute's fashion adviser in London, believes the most significant reason for cotton's growing popularity is the increasingly fabricious attitude of the fashion consumer.

"Women are much more sensitive to the feel of cloth," she says. "A few years ago it was the style that counted. When the mini skirt fashion trend no one but too much about the feel of the fabric as the look and the feel were right. The attitude is different now -- women are more concerned about the feel, how it feels, how it wears, how they wear it, and know that a natural fibre is easy and comfortable to wear."

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(J. N. G. C.)

- 1 - The Jordan National Geographic Centre expects to invite bids in April 1977 from pre-qualified contractors for the construction of the new buildings of the Centre in Amman, Jordan. Pre-qualification is open to Jordanian contractors classified by the Ministry of Public Works as first class contractors for buildings. Works to be executed in cooperation with French contractors specialised in prefabricated concrete industrialised structural systems.
- 2 - The scope of work includes four-level building with offices, laboratory and industrial floors to be completed within 12 months, including heating, plumbing air conditioning, water treatment, electrical equipment, etc. (Bulk earth moving excluded).
- 3 - An information meeting with the French consultants will be organised around the middle of March and interested contractors can attend this meeting when it is announced.
- 4 - Contractors interested in bidding for this project may obtain the "Pre-Qualification Questionnaire" from the J.N.G.C. office, Shmeisani, Amman, Tel. 61177 during normal working hours starting March 7, 1977.

This form should be completed and submitted in three copies with any other relevant data addressed to:

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This submission should be received not later than 12 noon on Wednesday March 23, 1977.

- 5 - The plans of the required work are available for inspection at the offices of J.N.G.C. Amman, Jordan.

- 6 - J.N.G.C. will notify contractors who have been pre-qualified to bid for the work and supply them with information regarding the preparation of bids. Reasons for rejection of applicants for pre-qualification will not be given.

Energy from the sun or the atom raises the billion dollar question

LONDON (F.T.) — A "jury" of energy advisers in Washington has recently been asked to pass judgment on an issue which could profoundly affect the world's long-term expectations for "benign and renewable" energy sources.

The question is simply: "Is the present and projected balance of the Solar Energy Programme justified, based on the promise of the various technologies?"

The question is important far beyond U.S. shores, for the size of the U.S. government's solar research programme and the evident Congressional enthusiasm for solar power has convinced many other people that the U.S. has rediscovered a rich new source of energy.

The question has been posed -- at some personal risk to his career as a senior government energy official -- by Dr. Robert L. Hirsch, assistant administrator for solar, geothermal and advanced energy systems in the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

Dr. Hirsch controls a research

budget of about 1 billion dollars a year, spent in national and private industry research centres. The portion allocated by Congress to solar energy is 29 million dollars, as much as Britain spends on all energy research, and is likely to be substantially greater this year.

But the Federal solar research budget has grown exponentially, from a mere 100,000 dollars in 1970. As Dr. Hirsch says, a "whole lot of decisions have been made very quickly".

It is time, he believes, to examine those decisions and decide whether the goals set for the various parts of the programme are still realistic. Are there possibilities for harnessing solar energy which are still being neglected in the enthusiastic dash to demonstrate the most highly publicised approaches?

He has already had one brush with devoted followers of the Sun God. One of his first tasks when given responsibility for the solar programme was to examine a proposal to build a new national laboratory to be

called the Solar Energy Research Institute, which a powerful committee of the National Academy of Sciences had proposed should start life with an annual budget of 50 million dollars.

States were already competing energetically for the honour of hosting SERI. But Dr. Hirsch found that in concentrating on the concept of a new research centre, the solar enthusiasts had neglected to say in anything but the vaguest terms what SERI would actually do.

Had SERI already been an established institute for solar system studies and analyses it would have been a natural place to put the questions Dr. Hirsch has been asking of his General Advisory Committee -- one appointed by the president.

His starting point is that solar energy far outstrips the other two genuine long-term possibilities for central electricity supplies, namely the fast breeder reactor and nuclear fusion.

"Solar is far and away the cleanest and probably the most desirable of the three energy sources," he told the committee. "The environmental problems associated with it are certainly less than with fusion and the breeder. The safety aspects of solar are clearly more attractive than those of fusion and the breeder."

His worry, however, is whether either of the two paths down which ERDA is pouring most of its solar budget have any real hope of economic success against the much more highly developed fast breeder reactor.

One of these is the solar concentrator or "power tower" system. Here, large arrays of reflector mirrors are set up to follow the sun and keep its rays focused upon an overhead boiler, suspended like a drooping street lamp from the "power tower".

The ERDA goal is to produce a system that will cost about 1,000 dollars per KW of electricity -- a reduction by a factor of 25-100 from today's costs.

As Dr. Hirsch sees the calculations, about half of the cost lies in the "heliostats" or mirror array, which to meet the ERDA goal must be produced for about 100 dollars per square metre. But "relatively mundane sorts of things" such as hoardings and highway signs already cost 100-150 dollars per square

metre, and these do not have to have optical quality nor sun-following ability. He doesn't say that it is an impossible target -- merely that he doesn't know how it can be reached.

But even if it can be reached, he is still worried about the usefulness as a central power supply of an energy source that even in the most attractive locations may be put out of action for as long as a week by cloudy skies.

He believes it must have some way of storing energy as a buffer against interruptions. For "average cloudy" parts of the U.S., he calculates, the real cost of a practical system could be three to seven times higher than the ERDA goal.

Dr. Hirsch came to very similar conclusions about the other major goal of his solar programme, photo-voltaic conversion, in which semi-conducting cells are used to convert solar radiation directly into electricity.

The ERDA goal is 300-500 dollars per KW -- compared with 14,000 dollars per KW for the latest purchases by ERDA of photo-electric panels. Solar enthusiasts have maintained that the gap will be bridged by advances in semiconductor technology, but no-one knows how. Again, the goal itself makes no allowance for the necessity of storage.

On the other hand, Dr. Hirsch sees two other possibilities for base-load energy from the sun which could be economically attractive, not least because they are intrinsically buffered against interruptions in the supply of sunshine. One is called ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), which concerns the temperature differences (in tropical latitudes especially) caused by the sun heating the surface of the sea. The other is "biomass", the cultivation of crops specifically for their energy content.

Both are at a significantly earlier stage of engineering development than power tower or photo-voltaic systems, and further development may disclose major engineering, environmental or economic obstacles.

All Robert Hirsch is asking is whether, in enthusiastically pursuing two goals barred by obstacles that now begin to look insuperable, his solar programme may not be neglecting two other possibilities which are much more realistic.

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